

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

LESLIE HARRIS & ASSOCIATES

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July 21, 2004

ORIGINAL

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Meeting

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to inform you of a July 20, 2004 ex parte meeting that the below listed members of the Education and Libraries Network Coalition (EdLiNC) conducted with Jessica Rosenworcel of Commissioner Copps's office. During this meeting, members of EdLiNC discussed with Ms. Rosenworcel the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks comment on proposed rules changes to the Universal Service's Schools and Libraries Program (CC Docket No. 02-6, FCC 03-323). EdLiNC members discussed their opposition to proposals to lower the top discount level for internal connections, referencing rationales included in their filings. Specifically, EdLiNC members object to any discount matrix adjustment because: 1) the lowest income applicants, who this program was designed to serve, might be unable to participate if they have to pay a higher share of eligible service costs; 2) the new "twice every five years" rule, designed to combat waste, fraud and abuse, should be afforded ample time to work before establishing new rules to combat the very same problem; and 3) applicants may be so confused by proposed rule changes that they will be deterred from applying at all. EdLiNC members also discussed problems with various proposals that would mandate that applicants audit themselves, including concerns about the cost to applicants and the program of self-auditing and the question of whether even low dollar applications must also audit.

The following people attended this meeting:

Jon Bernstein	Leslie Harris and Associates
Carrie Lowe	American Libraries Association
Sally Shake	Education Legislative Services

2120 L Street NW

Washington DC 20037

202 478 6301

202 478 6171  
www.lharris.com

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Chris Pearsall	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Manish Naik	Council of Great City Schools
Todd Haiken	National PTA
Debra Rigsby	National School Boards Association
Bob Woodall	Philadelphia City Schools
Dale McDonald	National Catholic Education Association

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Bernstein

Vice President, Government Relations and Policy

cc. Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner Copps's Office